



**The History of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis (1983-2016)**

Carson C. Smith, FSA Scot

## Past Presidents of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis



This photo includes the first six Presidents who served during the first ten years of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. Pictured left to right are Founder and President Emeritus Carter C. Keith (1984-88), Thomas C. Milton (1989-90), Marsha Smith Priest (1995), Carson C. Smith (1991-92 and 2000-04), Lee E. Cloe (1993), and Louis D. Shepherd (1994).

### **Author's Foreward**

*The History of the Scottish of Indianapolis* is, like the Society itself, a work in progress, and it is my intention to continue to expand, revise and update our history annually.

George Orwell, author of *Animal Farm* and *1984*, wrote that, "Those who control the present control the past, and those who control the past control the future."

And, although it has been suggested that I remove certain names from our records, my goal has been to provide an objective history of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis.

Carson C. Smith, FSA Scot  
Past President (1991-92 and 2000-04)  
Scottish Society of Indianapolis

## **The Founding of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis**

1983

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis was born in the heart of Founder and President Emeritus Carter Carlisle Keith, following his appointment to the office of Convener for the State of Indiana, Clan Keith Society USA, on October 10, 1983. Organization began with the filing of an official letter of intent on December 1, 1983, with the Indiana Secretary of State, establishing the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, to become effective on December 31, 1983.

1984

With the enthusiastic encouragement of the International Center of Indianapolis, representatives of Clans Campbell (Anna Gale Dortch), Grant (Ann Grant Miller), and Lamont (Charli Keith Turner), and organizational assistance from G. Edward (Ned) Buxton, III, of the Clan Keith Society USA, the first Board meeting was convened on Monday, April 23, 1984, at the home of Carter Keith at 4705 North Broadway.

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis was incorporated as a not-for-profit on August 23, 1984. To fill out the first Board of Trustees, Carter Keith relied heavily upon the members of his own family. His first Vice President was his twin brother, Neal Keith. His first Secretary was Charli Keith Turner. His first Treasurer was his sister-in-law Teresa Keith. The balance of the Board of Trustees included his brother, Teresa's husband, Todd Keith, and Carter's mother, Marjorie Workman Keith.

The Society made its first appearance at the 9th Annual International Festival, presented by the Nationalities Council of Indiana, at the Indiana Convention Center on the weekend of October 20, 1984, during which the Society was awarded Second Place honors for Education. It was here that Carter and I had our first face-to-face meeting, following an earlier phone conversation, suggested by Scott Hosier, at a meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution, which featured a presentation by John (Scotty) Selch, on genealogical research, using the Periodicals Section of the Indiana State Library.

1985

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis was granted membership in the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) on February 21, 1985. As the result of the Society's rapid growth, the monthly meetings of the SSI were moved from the International Center of Indianapolis to the Clubhouse of Westlake Arms Apartments, home of Todd and Teresa Keith. The first meeting at this new location was convened on Wednesday, March 13, 1985.

Meetings of the General Membership were called to order at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month. The Board of Trustees met in the home of President Carter Keith at 4705 North Broadway.

In May of 1985, Carter Keith convened an impromptu organizational meeting, while we were loading furniture onto a van, at the home of Charli Keith Turner and her daughter, DeAnna Lynn Turner, who were moving to Shellman, Georgia. I was asked to serve as Vice President and the Society's first Newsletter Editor. The first issue, Volume I, Number 1, of *The Thistle* was printed in June of 1985.

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis had grown from an initial gathering of nine (9) individuals, to include over sixty (60) memberships, thirty (30) of which were family memberships. The Society continued to develop a reservoir of information concerning Scottish Clans, genealogical research, music, tartans and, of course, Scotland. A small, but growing, Society library was stored at the home of the President.

The First Annual Founders Day Dinner and Ceilidh took place at the Clubhouse of Westlake Arms on Wednesday, November 13, 1985. The event was organized by Chairman Ann Grant Miller, decorations were supplied by Barbara (Bobbi) Murchie and Virginia (Ginny) Thompson, entertainment was provided by Piper Roderick A. (Roddy) MacDonald (the Elder), posters were created by Mrs. Stephen (Jacque) Andrews, the layout for the program, flyer, and tickets were provided by Robert (Bob) Miller, ticket sales were supervised by John Patrick, tables and chairs were put in place by William D. (Bill) Murchie, and the first Society election was directed by Chairman Lee Cloe.

The Society's first election yielded the following results: President Carter C. Keith, Vice President Carson C. Smith, Secretary John J. Patrick, Treasurer Jacque Andrews, ICI Liaison Brian J. McCall, Public Relations Officer Ann Grant Miller, and Reserve Duty Officer Louis D. Shepherd.

In addition to founding the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, Carter Keith drafted the first set of bylaws, designed the Society logo, created the newsletter, and called it *The Thistle*, and designed the Society flag and had it assembled. Much of what he did for the formation of the Society was hammered out on an IBM Selectric typewriter, under a single light bulb, at a small desk in the attic of his home at 4705 North Broadway.

Carter went on to rise through the ranks of the Clan Keith Society USA and ultimately became its National President for four (4) years. His Keith ancestors fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, consequently, he was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, in which he served as a member of the Color Guard for two (2) years. He has also assumed the office of Camp Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans.

He and his wife, Judy, will celebrate their Fortieth (40) Wedding Anniversary on April 23, 2017. They have two (2) children, Laura and Douglas, a son-in-law, Russ Williams, a granddaughter, Elly, and a rescue dog named Paddlefoot. Carter completed a thirty-three (33) year career in government as Manager of Federal Aid Programming for streets, roads, and bridges. It was, in fact, Carter Keith who approved funding for the Monon Trail, where Patty and I met over seventeen (17) years ago. Finally, he was involved in Scouting for twenty-five (25) years, and currently serves as the Public Affairs Officer for District 8 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

## The Board of Trustees of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis

### 1985 Board of Trustees

President	Carter C. Keith
Vice Pres	Carson C. Smith
Secretary	John J. Patrick
Treasurer	Teresa D. Keith
Trustee	Brian J. McColl
Trustee	Ann Grant Miller
Trustee	Gregory W. Graham
Trustee	Neal H. Keith

### 1986 Board of Trustees

President	Carter C. Keith
Vice Pres	Carson C. Smith
Secretary	John J. Patrick
Treasurer	Jacque Andrews
Trustee	Brian J. McCall
Trustee	Ann Grant Miller
Trustee	Louis D. Shepherd

### 1987 Board of Trustees

President	Carter C. Keith
Vice Pres	Carson C. Smith
Secretary	Barbara Murchie
Treasurer	Jacque Andrews
Trustee	Wallace K. Aiken
Trustee	Louis D. Shepherd
Trustee	Thomas H. Thompson

### 1988 Board of Trustees

President	Carter C. Keith
Vice Pres	Carson C. Smith
Secretary	Barbara Murchie
Treasurer	Jacque Andrews
Trustee	Stephen K. Andrews
Trustee	Louis D. Shepherd
Trustee	Thomas H. Thompson

### 1989 Board of Trustees

President	Thomas C. Milton
Vice Pres	Stephen K. Andrews
Secretary	Lynn Allyn Young
Treasurer	Louis D. Shepherd
Trustee	Lee E. Cloe
Trustee	Donald M. McMillan
Trustee	Thomas H. Thompson

### 1990 Board of Trustees

President	Thomas C. Milton
Vice Pres	Carson C. Smith
Secretary	Lynn Allyn Young
Treasurer	Louis D. Shepherd
Trustee	Stephen K. Andrews
Trustee	Lee E. Cloe
Trustee	James Lamb
Trustee	Jeffrey B. Mills

### 1991 Board of Trustees

President	Carson C. Smith
Vice Pres	Lee E. Cloe
Secretary	Jerry G. Elliot
Treasurer	Louis D. Shepherd
Trustee	James Lamb
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich
Trustee	Marsha Smith Priest
Trustee	Michael J. Stevens

### 1992 Board of Trustees

President	Carson C. Smith
Vice Pres	Lee E. Cloe
Secretary	Lee E. Cloe
Treasurer	Louis D. Shepherd
Trustee	James R. Campbell
Trustee	James Lamb
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich
Trustee	Michael J. Stevens

1993 Board of Trustees

President	Lee E. Cloe
Vice Pres	Louis D. Shepherd
Secretary	Lee E. Cloe
Treasurer	Louis D. Shepherd
Trustee	Jeanne B. Blake
Trustee	James Lamb
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich
Trustee	Michael J. Stevens

1994 Board of Trustees

President	Louis D. Shepherd
Vice Pres	Marsha Smith Priest
Secretary	Lee E. Cloe
Treasurer	John L. Porteous, Jr.
Trustee	Jeanne B. Blake
Trustee	Elizabeth A. Hague
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich

1995 Board of Trustees

President	Marsha Smith Priest
Vice Pres	Frederick B. Dundas
Secretary	Lee E. Cloe
Treasurer	Elizabeth A. Hague
Trustee	Bill McKnight
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich
Trustee	Mary Ann Steiner

1996 Board of Trustees

President	Frederick B. Dundas
Vice Pres	Bill McKnight
Secretary	Lee E. Cloe
Treasurer	Elizabeth A. Hague
Trustee	Carter C. Keith
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich
Trustee	Marsha Van Camp

1997 Board of Trustees

President	Diana Stevens
Vice Pres	Carter C. Keith
Secretary	Lee E. Cloe
Treasurer	Marsha Van Camp
Trustee	Rebecca Bilbrey
Trustee	Elizabeth A. Hague
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich

1998 Board of Trustees

President	Diana Stevens
Vice Pres	Carter C. Keith
Secretary	Lee E. Cloe
Treasurer	Rebecca Bilbrey
Trustee	Jeanne B. Blake
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich
Trustee	Louis D. Shepherd

1999 Board of Trustees

President	Diana Stevens
Vice Pres	Carter C. Keith
Secretary	Judith P. Bastin
Treasurer	Rebecca Bilbrey
Trustee	Jeanne B. Blake
Trustee	Dean C. McKean
Trustee	Mary Ann Pavlovich

2000 Board of Trustees

President	Carson C. Smith
Vice Pres	Judith P. Bastin
Secretary	Lee E. Cloe
Treasurer	Rebecca Bilbrey
Trustee	Jean McDonald
Trustee	Dean C. McKean
Trustee	Donna Stogsdill



2001 Board of Trustees

President Carson C. Smith  
Vice Pres Judith P. Bastin  
Secretary Lee E. Cloe  
Treasurer Kristy A. Byers  
Trustee Rebecca Bilbrey  
Trustee Janet A. Nichols  
Trustee Robert J. Pate

2002 Board of Trustees

President Carson C. Smith  
Vice Pres Judith P. Bastin  
Secretary Lee E. Cloe  
Treasurer Kristy A. Byers  
Trustee Edward S. Adams  
Trustee Nancy L. Foxworthy  
Trustee Mary E. Mahoney

2003 Board of Trustees

President Carson C. Smith  
Vice Pres Judith P. Bastin  
Secretary Nancy L. Foxworthy  
Treasurer Kristy A. Byers  
Trustee Edward S. Adams  
Trustee Jack T. Davidson  
Trustee Mary E. Mahoney

2004 Board of Trustees

President Carson C. Smith  
Vice Pres Jack T. Davidson  
Secretary Nancy L. Foxworthy  
Treasurer Kristy A. Byers  
Trustee Edward S. Adams  
Trustee Judith P. Bastin  
Trustee Gordon H. Inglis

2005 Board of Trustees

President Jack T. Davidson  
Vice Pres Gordon H. Inglis  
Secretary Ronald L. Walker  
Treasurer Kristy A. Byers  
Trustee Edward S. Adams  
Trustee Judith P. Bastin  
Trustee John D. Dockery, II  
Trustee George R. McMath

2006 Board of Trustees

President Gordon H. Inglis  
Vice Pres Edward S. Adams  
Secretary Judith P. Bastin  
Treasurer Kristy A. Byers  
Trustee Jack T. Davidson  
Trustee John D. Dockery, II  
Trustee George R. McMath  
Trustee Ronald L. Walker

2007 Board of Trustees

President Gordon H. Inglis  
Vice Pres Edward S. Adams  
Secretary Judith P. Bastin  
Treasurer John D. Dockery, II  
Trustee Jack T. Davidson  
Trustee Rebekah Lawson  
Trustee Ronald L. Walker

2008 Board of Trustees

President Gordon H. Inglis  
Secretary Judith P. Bastin  
Treasurer John D. Dockery, II  
Trustee Gary L. Davidson  
Trustee Jack T. Davidson  
Trustee Rebecca McClure  
Trustee Ronald L. Walker

2009 Board of Trustees

President Gary L. Davidson  
Vice Pres Matthew C. Douglass  
Secretary Judith P. Bastin  
Treasurer Steven C. Johnson  
Trustee Alexandra Douglass  
Trustee Rebekah Lawson  
Trustee Kenneth L. Morgan

2010 Board of Trustees

President Gary L. Davidson  
Vice Pres Matthew C. Douglass  
Secretary Gregory A. Bowers  
Treasurer Ronald L. Elliott  
Trustee Mark G. Lawson  
Trustee Rebekah Lawson  
Trustee Kenneth L. Morgan

2011 Board of Trustees

President Gary L. Davidson  
Vice Pres Gregory A. Bowers  
Vice Pres Rebekah Lawson  
Secretary Walter Sherman  
Treasurer Ronald L. Elliott  
Trustee Mark G. Lawson  
Trustee Kenneth L. Morgan

2012 Board of Trustees

President Rebekah Lawson  
Vice Pres Gregory A. Bowers  
Secretary Terry Miller  
Treasurer Ronald L. Elliott  
Trustee Robin P. Jarrett  
Trustee Mark G. Lawson  
Trustee Kenneth L. Morgan

2013 Board of Trustees

President Mark G. Lawson  
Vice Pres Gregory A. Bowers  
Secretary Elisabeth Hedges  
Treasurer Ronald L. Elliott  
Trustee Robin P. Jarrett  
Trustee Mack L. Hunter  
Trustee Kenneth L. Morgan

2014 Board of Trustees

President Robin P. Jarrett  
Secretary Elisabeth Hedges  
Treasurer Steven C. Johnson  
Trustee Armand C. Hayes  
Trustee Samuel J. Lawson  
Trustee Carson C. Smith  
Trustee Andrew E. Thompson

2015 Board of Trustees

President Robin P. Jarrett  
Secretary Elisabeth A. Hedges  
Treasurer Steven C. Johnson  
Trustee Armand C. Hayes  
Trustee Samuel J. Lawson  
Trustee Carson C. Smith  
Trustee Andrew E. Thompson

2016 Board of Trustees

President Robin P. Jarrett  
Secretary Elisabeth A. Hedges  
Treasurer Steven C. Johnson  
Trustee Armand C. Hayes  
Trustee Samuel J. Lawson  
Trustee Carson C. Smith  
Trustee Andrew E. Thompson

## 2017 Board of Trustees

President	Robin P. Jarrett
Secretary	Elisabeth A. Hedges
Treasurer	Steven C. Johnson
Trustee	Matthew C. Douglass
Trustee	Samuel J. Lawson
Trustee	Kristy Byers Stewart
Trustee	Andrew E. Thompson

## Officers of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis

### Presidents

1984-88 Carter C. Keith  
1989-90 Thomas C. Milton  
1991-92 Carson C. Smith  
1993 Lee E. Cloe  
1994 Louis D. Shepherd  
1995 Marsha Smith Priest  
1996 Frederick B. Dundas (Died 02/02/96)  
1996 Lee E. Cloe (Interim)  
1997-99 Diana Stevens  
2000-04 Carson C. Smith  
2005 Jack T. Davidson  
2006-08 Gordon H. Inglis  
2009-11 Gary L. Davidson  
2012 Rebekah Lawson  
2012-13 Mark G. Lawson  
2014-17 Robin P. Jarrett

### Vice Presidents

1985-88 Carson C. Smith  
1989 Stephen K. Andrews  
1990 Carson C. Smith  
1991-92 Lee E. Cloe  
1993 Louis D. Shepherd  
1994 Marsha Smith Priest  
1995 Frederick B. Dundas  
1996 Bill McKnight  
1997-99 Carter C. Keith  
2000-03 Judith P. Bastin  
2004 Jack T. Davidson  
2005 Gordon H. Inglis  
2006-07 Edward S. Adams  
2009-10 Matthew C. Douglass  
2011-13 Gregory A. Bowers

### Secretaries

1986 John J. Patrick  
1987-88 Barbara Murchie  
1987-90 Lynn Allyn Young  
1991 Jerry G. Elliot  
1992-98 Lee E. Cloe  
1999 Judith P. Bastin  
2000-02 Lee E. Cloe  
2003-04 Nancy L. Foxworthy  
2005 Ronald L. Walker  
2006-09 Judith P. Bastin  
2010 Gregory A. Bowers  
2011 Walter Sherman  
2012 Terry Miller  
2013-17 Elisabeth A. Hedges

### Treasurers

1986-88 Jacque Andrews  
1989-93 Louis D. Shepherd  
1994 John L. Porteous  
1995-96 Elizabeth A. Hague  
1997 Marsha Van Camp  
1998-00 Rebecca Bilbrey  
2001-06 Kristy A. Byers  
2007-08 John D. Dockery, II  
2009 Steven C. Johnson  
2010-13 Ronald L. Elliott  
2014-17 Steven C. Johnson

Newsletter Editors

1985-86 Carson C. Smith  
 1986-87 Walter Buchanan  
 1987-90 Lynn Allyn Young  
 1990-92 Carson C. Smith  
 1993-99 Lee E. Cloe  
 1999 Carter C. Keith  
 2000-02 Rebecca Bilbrey  
 2002-05 Judith P. Bastin  
 2005-08 Ronald L. Walker  
 2009-10 Matthew C. Douglass  
 2011-13 Gregory A. Bowers  
 2014-16 Armand C. Hayes  
 2017 Matthew C. Douglass

NCI Liaison Officers

1986-88 Brian J. McCall  
 1989 Carson C. Smith  
 1989-96 Michael and Diana Stevens  
 1997-01 Rebecca Bilbrey  
 2001-03 Mary E. Mahoney  
 2003-04 Carson C. Smith  
 2004 John E. Trotter  
 2005 George R. McMath  
 2006-14 Carol Atherton Clarkson  
 2015-17 Carson C. Smith

**Recipients of the Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson Award for Excellence**

1989 Lynn Allyn Young	1990 Stephen K. Andrews
1991 Lee E. Cloe	1992 Louis D. Shepherd
1993 James Lamb	1994 Carter C. Keith
1995 Michael and Diana Stevens	1996 Frederick B. Dundas (Posthumous)
1997 Mary Ann Innes Pavlovich	1998 Jeanne B. Blake
1999 Diana Stevens	2000 Rebecca Bilbrey
2001 Judith P. Bastin	2002 Lewis E. Forbes (Posthumous)
2003 Kristy A. Byers	2004 Carson C. Smith
2005 Nancy L. Foxworthy	2006 Jack T. Davidson
2007 Rebekah Lawson	2008 George R. McMath, Jr.
2009 Bennett F. Lynch	2010 John D. Dockery, II
2011 Gary and Julie Davidson	2012 Andy and Mary Thompson
2013 Ronald L. Elliott	2014 Lise Douglass and Deneice Jarrett
2015 Steven C. Johnson	2016 Robin P. Jarrett
2017 To Be Determined	

**Honorary Titles Conferred by the Scottish Society of Indianapolis**

Founder and President Emeritus  
 Carter C. Keith

Honorary Life Member  
 G. Edward (Ned) Buxton, III

Trustee Emeritus  
 Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson

Secretary Emeritus  
 Maj. Lee E. Cloe, D. Ed., USAF (Ret.)

## **The Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games & Festival**

1st Annual Indianapolis Scottish Games  
Saturday, October 9, 2010  
Latvian Community Center  
Chairman Gary L. Davidson

2nd Annual Indianapolis Scottish Games  
Saturday, October 8, 2011  
Latvian Community Center  
Chairman Gary L. Davidson

3rd Annual Indianapolis Scottish Games  
Saturday, October 13, 2012  
German Park  
Chairman Gary L. Davidson\*

4th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Games  
Saturday, October 11, 2013  
German Park  
Chairman Gary L. Davidson\*

5th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Games  
Saturday, October 11, 2014  
German Park  
Lise Douglass and Deneice Jarrett

6th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Games  
Saturday, October 10, 2015  
German Park  
Lise Douglass and Deneice Jarrett

7th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Games  
Saturday, October 8, 2016  
German Park  
Lise Douglass and Deneice Jarrett

8th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Games  
Saturday, October 14, 2017  
German Park  
Lise Douglass and Deneice Jarrett

\*Co-Chairman Gregory A. Bowers

### **Recipients of the Title of Knight of the Realm or Lady of the Realm**

2011 Mayor Gregory A. Ballard  
2013 Sherriff John R. Layton  
2015 Mary E. Thompson  
2017 To Be Determined

2012 Andris P. Berzins  
2014 Mark G. Lawson  
2016 Elisabeth A. Hedges

### **Recipients of the Order of the Unicorn for Contributions by Non-Members**

2016 Eric Jones

2017 To Be Determined

## Flowers of the Forest

1989

Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson

1993

Barbara (Bobbi) Murchie

James Lamb

1996

Andy Thompson

Frederick B. Dundas

1997

Marjorie Workman Keith

2002

Lewis E. Forbes

2003

Carl R. Dortch

Mary Stewart

Liz Johnson

2007

Roderick D. (Roddy) MacDonald

2008

Virginia (Ginny) Thompson

2009

Scott F. Hosier, Jr.

George R. McMath, Jr.

Anna Gale Dortch

2010

Louis D. Shepherd

2012

Gordon H. Inglis

2013

Helen Nugent

Neal H. Keith

William D. (Bill) Murchie

Gloria Bulger

2014

Ann Grant Miller

2015

Wallace K. (Wally) Aiken, Jr.

Dr. Wallace Gordon Diehl

David L. Hager

2016

Lee E. Cloe

## Meeting Places of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis

May 1984 to February 1985

International Center of Indianapolis  
200 W. 49th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208-3412  
317-686-3850 Phone

March 1985 to August 1987

Westlake Arms Apartments  
6000 W. Lake Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46224-7980  
317-248-0666 Phone

September 1987 to March 1989

Marcy Village Apartments  
4561 Marcy Ln.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-2044  
317-259-7774 Phone

April 1989 to February 1996

Trinity Episcopal Church  
3243 N. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208-4677  
317-926-1346 Phone

March 1996

Knights of Columbus  
1040 N. Post Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219-4222  
317-897-1577 Phone

April 1996 to December 2001

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Educational Building  
10 W. 61st St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208-1594  
317-253-1277 Phone

January 2002

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
Rectory Basement  
4217 Central Av.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-1896  
317-283-5508 Phone

February 2002

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
Athletic Complex  
500 E. 42nd St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-1897  
317-283-5508 Phone

April 2002 to August 2002

All Souls Unitarian Church  
5805 E. 56th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46226-1526  
317-545-6005 Phone

September 2002 to October 2003

Indianapolis Firefighters Union Hall  
748 Massachusetts Av.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1609  
317-262-5161 Phone



November 2003 to December 2003

Church of St. Edward the Confessor  
6361 N. Keystone Av.  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-2156  
317-253-3949 Phone

January 2004 to December 2006

Robert E. Sterrett Senior Center  
8950 Otis Av.  
Indianapolis, IN 46216-1033  
317-549-4815 Phone

January 2007 to Present

The Latvian Community Center  
1008 W. 64th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46260-4458  
317-255-0992 Phone

## **The Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson Award**

The time has come to present this year's Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson Award for Excellence in Service to the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. On occasion, one of our newer members will ask, "Who was Tommy Thompson?" The question serves to remind me how very much the membership of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis has grown, and changed, since its founding in December of 1983.

A slender, darkly tanned, mustachioed man of average height, wearing black plastic framed glasses, Tommy is recalled by his widow, Ginny Sheely Thompson, as an especially "well-built" man who enjoyed swimming. He wore a kilt fashioned from the tartan of Clan Douglas, a khaki colored military styled tunic, and the Glengarry bonnet after which the US Army's overseas cap is modeled. He was a plainspoken man and possessed a wry sense of humor.

Thomas Hubbard Thompson was born on May 31, 1918, in Washington, DC, during his father's service as a Captain in the US Army in World War I. Tommy was descended from one of Indianapolis' prominent families. His great-grandfather, William S. Hubbard, owned the ground upon which L.S. Ayres was built, at the southwest corner of Washington and South Meridian Streets, and founded and served upon the Board of Directors of both Crown Hill Cemetery and Second Presbyterian Church. It was through his mother that Tommy was descended from Katherine Douglas.

Tommy was an only child. His father's career relocated the family to the American South. Tommy attended school in Florida and Alabama, where he was called a "Damned Yank." Ironically, upon the family's return to Indianapolis, his schoolmates called him a "Damned Reb." Tommy was a graduate of Shortridge High School. He attended Butler University, where he pledged Delta Tau Delta, and graduated with a degree in Business Administration and Economics in 1941.

Tommy Thompson enlisted in the US Army, the day following the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor, at the age of twenty-three. He served five years in the Pacific theater of operation as the Head of Ordinance in Leyte and the Philippines. Following the war's conclusion, Tommy returned to Indianapolis where he worked part-time for the CIT Credit Corporation, later Universal CIT, a lending institution, which financed freight carriers and personal auto loans.

It was there he met Virginia (Ginny) Sheely, Head of Personnel, in October of 1946. Like Tommy, Ginny was a graduate of Butler University. Like Tommy, Ginny had studied Business Administration and Economics. Like Tommy, Ginny had participated in the Greek system at Butler. Tommy was a Delta Tau Delta. Ginny was an Alpha Omega Pi. Like Tommy, Ginny had never married.

They were married in May of 1947 when, according to Ginny, “We both weighed 147 pounds in 1947!” Ginny has commented that, because Tommy and Ginny had both remained single into their thirties, the success of their marriage bore powerful witness to their mutual flexibility.

To comply with CIT’s corporate policy barring married employees, Tommy took a position with Standard Oil Company’s Indianapolis office’s at 11th and Capitol, and, later, 38th Street, across from the Indiana State Fairgrounds, where he worked as an Assistant Credit Manager for nineteen years.

Tommy and Ginny had one son, Douglas Hubbard Thompson, born in 1952, who later fathered their one granddaughter, Molly. Tommy continued to serve in the US Army, active and reserve, for twenty-two years, retiring in 1965 with the rank of Major. Following Standard Oil Company’s closure of its Indianapolis offices, Tommy was asked to relocate to either Chicago or Detroit. He opted, instead, to retire from Standard Oil Company in 1966 and joined First Federal Savings and Loan Association, later, First Indiana Bank, moving from offices on the Indianapolis Westside to Nora, Carmel, and Westfield.

Tommy retired from the private sector, leaving his position as Assistant Vice President and Head of Security for First Indiana Bank, on his 65th birthday on May 31, 1983. He served two terms on the Clay Township Advisory Board and was a Charter Member of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church where he served two terms as a deacon. He was a member of the Retired Officers Association of Indiana, American Legion Kennington Post No. 34 in Broad Ripple, and the Indianapolis-Marion County and Carmel-Clay Historical Societies.

Tommy built, and later remodeled, their home at 10680 Highland Drive, with his own hands, and with, she would be quick to add, no small help from his wife, Ginny. Tommy and Ginny, who is, herself, of German extraction, traveled five times to Scotland and four times to Germany. They became involved in Scottish-American Heritage activities as enthusiastic supporters of Clan Douglas. Tommy and Ginny attended games and gatherings in Carrollton, Kentucky, and Gatlinburg, Tennessee, setting up camp in a Brown Dodge Van outfitted with curtains that Ginny had made.

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis was founded by its first President, Carter Keith, with the filing of an official letter of intent, with the Indiana Secretary of State, on December 1, 1983, to become effective December 31, 1983. Tommy and Ginny Thompson joined the Scottish Society of Indianapolis in its first year. Tommy was elected to serve upon the Board of Trustees in 1987, 1988, and 1989, and represented the Society at its Cultural Booth at the International Festival of Indianapolis, and built the Celtic cross displayed at Society functions.

As the result of the efforts of Trustee Tommy Thompson, the Scottish Society of Indianapolis sponsored two firsts on Sunday, November 15, 1987, with two Kirkins o’ the Tartan. The first, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church at 10:00 AM, and, the second, later that same day, at Christ Church Cathedral Episcopal Church at 4:00 PM, in connection with its 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Tommy was diagnosed with terminal cancer, following his election in November of 1988, to the 1989 Board of Trustees, and given less than one year to live. He resigned from the Board who, under the direction of President Tom Milton, at their meeting in February of 1989, named Tommy "Trustee Emeritus" in recognition of his many invaluable contributions to the Scottish Society of Indianapolis.

Tommy faced his cancer head on, using the time remaining to prepare his wife, Ginny, to manage their affairs without him. I am so very grateful that, during that final summer, I had the opportunity to spend an evening, sitting on the back porch, and watching the sunset, with Tommy and Ginny Thompson.

Tommy died in the home he and Ginny had built with their own hands, in August of 1989. He was laid to rest in the uniform of the United States Army, which he had worn through twenty-two years of service, active and reserve. The members of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis appeared at Tommy's funeral dressed in full Scottish regalia. At the cemetery, his old friend, Colonel Bill Murchie, piped Tommy off with *Amazing Grace*. No Highland Chief ever received a finer send-off than Tommy Thompson.

Throughout his life, and in that final summer prior to his death, Tommy modeled the pursuit of excellence. And, so it is, that I am honored to call Tommy's widow, Ginny Thompson, to the podium, to present this year's Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson Award for Excellence in Service to the Scottish Society of Indianapolis.

Carson C. Smith, FSA Scot  
Past President (1991-92 and 2000-04)  
Scottish Society of Indianapolis

## The State of the Society Address 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen, Board of Trustees, Fellow Scots.

Welcome to you all, I am very pleased to see such a large turnout for one of our most important meetings of the year. I would like to thank Steven in his execution, providing us with such a delightful evening and Rick Blacklidge for the marvelous décor. Finally, thanks to Jim George for the wonderful meal.

Our Society is in a sense much like the country our ancestors came from. Scotland is a wee place comparably to the world at large much like our society is a small group in relative terms. Both however have made impact, greater than their respective size. Our Society has prospered in 2016, due directly to the efforts of this small group of people that I'm going to talk about.

Before I can talk about what the Society has accomplished materially, I feel the need to portray some of the people who are responsible for making these achievements possible. Firstly, I need to mention my beautiful wife Deneice, for without her support, love, and counsel it would not be possible for me to be your president. The board for 2016 has made my job as president an easy task. As we've dined on fish and chips, we as a collective group have brainstormed many great ideas. Steven and Elisabeth are the best treasurer and secretary a president could ask for. In addition to keeping our finances straight, Steven keeps track of membership, the bylaws, and the schedule for the Society just to name a few of his tasks and accomplishments. Elisabeth, I have no idea how you make sense of the chaotic gibberish we call a meeting, but in a week, I always get a concise accounting of what was said and done, Andy, my rock is always there when I need you, Samuel, our Neo and the voice of reason, Armand, who comes up with great content for *The Thistle*, Carson, our Nationalities Council Liaison is stepping down from the board. I would like to thank Carson on behalf of our Society for his contributions, past, present, and future.

I suppose the reoccurring theme so far is the people of the Society, a small group with big ideas and great presence. We, as a group representing the Society, were seated at table number one at the 42nd Royal Highlanders Burn's Dinner last January. We were present as speakers for the Burns Celebration at the Aristocrat, where Mark delivered the "Address to the Haggis". We hosted our own "Burns Lite" where Steven gave a most poignant speech "To the Immortal Memory", and Samuel did the best recounting of the "Tam O' Shanter" I've ever heard. In February, we manned a table at the IUPUI International Festival when member Dr. Peter Hylton made his last appearance before spiriting off to Northern Scotland to live and teach with his wife Wendy. In March, we again participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Indianapolis. We continued on through the year, this small group, "Tasting the Water of Life", learning about Duggerland, parading with the Nationalities Council in the 500 Festival Parade, as well as the 4th of July Parade in Carmel. We were represented at Irish Fest, where I dare say we pass off more information about our heritage from our 10 x 10 booth, than the Irish do about their heritage with their entire Festival. We learned about "The Bonnie Prince and his Ladies", The Gordon Highlanders, and about "A Tailor in the Army of Prince Charles". In July, a group of us represented the Society and Festival at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. A number of people recognized who and what we were by our red name tags. We garnered many queries

about our group and the Games. It seems people are watching. In August, we had our 1st “Summer Celebration” with over a hundred in attendance, reveling in our Scottish heritage. We hosted a Kilt Night, and attended in force the 1st Annual MidSommer Festival as a member nation of the Latvian Center. We exhibited at the Columbus Games, where we walked in the parade of clans and again sponsored the Best Clan Tent Award. At the Indy International Festival, we won 2nd place for Education. The NCI president who presided over the Festival just happened to be wearing a kilt, coincidence I think not. Our small group has broadened our presence across many cultures, peoples, and it seems outside the borders of our city and the State of Indiana.

We hosted the 7th Annual Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival this year. Our games are indeed the greatest way we make an impression in our city. Thousands bore witness to the success of this venture. Lise and Deneice, in the three short years you have served as chairs, have led the committee in creating one of the finest festivals of its kind in the Midwest. The children’s quest is a stroke of genius, what a fantastic way of immersing the wee ones in Scottish Heritage. Our cultural and educational impact on the community is tremendous, and I congratulate you on a job well done.

The Society has prospered and grown in all of this. We have added 23 new members this year, bringing us to 124 family, individual, and life memberships. I’m pleased to report that as of today, in our three accounts we total nearly \$58,000.00 and that the Society is indeed solvent, and I must note, the games are paid for. This, of course, insures the continuation of our Society and our festival for many years to come.

As many of you know, we have entered into a partnership with Indiana University’s School of Liberal Arts to endow a scholarship program to help fund student’s pursuits in Scottish studies. This is perhaps our finest accomplishment to date. The Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis McMath Scholarship will indeed fulfill our charter of education in a way that we couldn’t have even considered just a few years ago. I received three letters from Indiana University, one from the University President, the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, and the President of the Scholarship Match Fund. (Read from letters).

This will be one of our greatest legacies, indeed it will be one of mine and I hope the future will remember what we have created here.

Just like our ancestors from a small place across the sea, we the Scottish Society of Indianapolis have made impact through presence and education where ever we have gone. I, as your president, declare 2016 a year of success in Gach ni Albanach and I know we will, as this small band of Scots, endeavor to make a big impression in the years to come. May we stand and hold our glasses high and make a toast to the Scottish Society of Indianapolis and its successes past present and future. Thank you for your confidence in me as we move into another year!

Slainte’

Robin Jarrett, FSA Scot

President Scottish Society of Indianapolis